carnage U.S.A.

MARVEL

LIMITED SERIES

4 OF 5

zeb wells

clayton crain

...of America!

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WANTED

SPIDER-MAN & THE CARNAGE-POSSESSED AVENGERS

DR. TANIS NIEVES

CLETUS KASADY & HANNAH MORRELL

AGENT VENOM

Months ago, Cletus Kasady, a homicidal madman and host of the powerful symbiote known as Carnage, went on the lam from justice. Days ago, he conquered the small town of Doverton, Colorado, and possessed Captain America and a task force of the Avengers dispatched to stop the symbiotic maniac.

The lone Avenger to escape was Spider-Man, who was rescued by a group of Doverton citizens who have formed a small resistance group in an abandoned estate and animal preserve on the outskirts of town. The estate was compromised, however, when Carnage manipulated Hannah Morrell, one of his hostages, to attempt to kill her husband, Eric, one of the resistance leaders.

Hannah resisted Carnage's influence, but was quickly whisked back to Doverton, where the price for her failure will be the death of herself and her children.

Meanwhile, the United States government has sent a squad of symbiote enhanced soldiers to free the town - at any cost. With the team is Dr. Tanis Nieves, a former host of the Carnage symbiote. The team infiltrated Doverton but was baited into battle with Carnage's possessed Doverton citizens.

As Carnage revels in the chaos around him, Captain America breaks his control for a moment - just long enough to call for help from his fellow Avenger, Venom, a former soldier named Flash Thompson who is bonded with the Venom symbiote - parent of the Carnage symbiote!

Editor's note: This issue takes place after Secret Avengers #23.

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Ralsby Family Estate.
DOVERTON, COLORADO.

LISTEN UP! SPIDER-MAN'S GOT SOMETHING TO SAY!

OH, OKAY... THANKS, SHERIFF MORRELL. I DON'T USUALLY DO THIS, BUT *AHEM*--

CLETUS KASADY HAS TAKEN YOUR TOWN. IF WE'RE GOING TO SAVE OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY, WE'LL HAVE TO--

STAND TOGETHER!

FIGHT TOGETHER!

UM...

YOU KNOW WHAT, WILL YOU JUST TAKE THIS?

I DON'T REALLY USE GUNS AND I'M STARTING TO FEEL LIKE A TOOL.

OH. OKAY.

THANKS, ERIC.

LOOK, YOU ALL KNOW HOW DANGEROUS THIS IS GOING TO BE. A PSYCHOPATH HAS LET A MURDEROUS ALIEN SYMBIOTE LOOSE IN YOUR TOWN.

I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF ANY OF YOU FOLLOWING ME IN THERE, BUT WE'VE GOT TRANQUILIZER GUNS FROM THE *ZOO* AND I KNOW IF *MY* LOVED ONES WERE--

Er...

Uh...

...SOMEBODY WANNA DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT GORILLA?

-GRUNT-

GET! GO ON, GET!

SO WE'RE JUST GONNA LET THOSE THINGS RUN WILD?

DON'T REALLY HAVE A CHOICE... SINCE I DROVE MY TRUCK THROUGH THE FENCE AND ALL.

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

THAT'S *PROBABLY* GONNA BE TROUBLE.

Downtown.

HOW WE DOING, BOSS?!

LIEUTENANT JAMES MURPHY,
NAVY SEALS. HEAVY MUNITIONS. ASSIGNED BIO-WEAPON: AGONY.

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER MARCUS SIMMS,
10TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP.

RICO CLOCKED KASADY IN THAT BAR! IF WE DON'T ICE HIM BY SUN-UP, THE FEDS ARE GOING TO TORCH THIS PLACE WHETHER WE'RE OUT OR NOT! MOVE UP!

I-I TOLD YOU SOMEONE WOULD COME. SOMEONE WOULD STOP YOU...

SHHHH! I CAN'T TALK TO YOU AND CONTROL A WHOLE TOWN OF HICKS AT THE SAME TIME!

AND KEEP THAT KID CRYIN'! IT HELPS ME THINK!

GYRRACH!

SYMBIOTICALLY ENHANCED WAR DOG: LASHER.

WHAT'S WITH ALL THE BABY SYMBIOTES?

DO I LOOK LIKE A @#%@#+ DAYCARE?!

PETTY OFFICER HOWARD OGDEN,
MARSOC. RECONNAISSANCE, DIRECT ACTION. ASSIGNED BIO-WEAPON: RIOT.

HOW'S YOUR AMMO?

NOT GOOD. THOSE PISTOLS AS INEFFECTIVE AS THEY LOOK?

HEY, KIDS!

LIEUTENANT RICO AXELSON,
NAVY SEALS. SNIPER. ASSIGNED BIO-WEAPON: PHAGE.

GET OFF MY LAWN.

CARNAGE U.S.A., PART FOUR
OH SAY CAN YOU SCREAM!

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GOT 'IM.

BLAM

HA HA! SO IT'S *THAT* TYPE A' FIGHT, YEAH?

THAK

UP, UP, AND AWAY!

BOYS, LET'S SEND THE FEDERAL SYMBIOTE SQUAD BACK HOME TO MOMMA!

DR. NIEVES, IF YOU'RE GONNA GET IN THE FIGHT...

...NOW'S THE TIME!

Ralsby Meat Packing Plant.

TANIS--SCORN! WHATEVER YOU'RE CALLED! WE NEED ALL HANDS ON DECK!

YES, THERE ARE PLENTY OF BALL BEARINGS. PLENTY.

A FREQUENCY OF 345 ghz SHOULD BE ATTAINABLE.

NIEVES! WE'RE--

NO, DON'T LISTEN TO THEM, DOCTOR...

YOU'RE DOING JUST FINE HERE...

...JUST FINE.

GO DOWN, DAMMIT!

KLEER

YEAARGHHH!

JIMMY!

@#$%! PULL BACK! PULL BACK!

NOT YET.

I...I'M REALLY NOT SURE WHO THE GOOD GUYS ARE, SO--

FIRE IN THE HOLE!

GUESS THAT'LL WORK.

SQUEEEEEE!

AND I KNOW DOPPELGANGER'S BAD NEWS.

THUNK

ARNAR!

HANNAH! WHERE ARE YOU, BABY?!

YOU'RE HANNAH'S HUBBY?

THAT'S RIGHT. I WAS SUPPOSED TO KILL THAT SHERRIF GUY'S WHOLE FAMILY...

FIND YOUR WIFE, ERIC. I'VE GOT THIS ONE.

SPIDER-MAN!

HA HA. STOP SHOWIN' OFF FOR YOUR FRIENDS!

YOU DON'T "GOT" @#%@##!

YOU'RE NOT GOING NEAR THESE PEOPLE EVER AGAIN!

"NEAR?" I NEVER LEFT, BABY! I'M EVERYWHERE!

HANNAH!

ERIC!

ACK--

HELP--!!

YOUR BUDDY'S IN THERE RIGHT NOW, WATCHING WHILE I CHOKE THAT BALL AND CHAIN RIGHT OFF HIS ANKLE!

UNGH!

I DON'T KNOW WHY MY OTHER WANTED TO PUT ON ALL THIS EXTRA WEIGHT, BUT I'M GOING TO ENJOY IT WHILE I CAN!

I-I CAN'T GET IT ALL, BABY!

SLSH

YOUR EYES ARE PRETTY COCKY BEHIND THAT MASK, AIN'T THEY?!

I'M GONNA PULL 'EM RIGHT THROUGH YOUR MASK... LIKE YOUR SKULL IS GIVIN' BIRTH!

HOLD STILL, SPIDER-MAN.

THOOMP

SQUEEEEE!

UNDERBOOMP

IT'S LETTING GO! BREATHE, BABY!

HUUUUNGH!

SCREEEEEE!

WWWWOMP

BASE, THIS IS VENOM. I'VE MADE CONTACT WITH THE MARK.

AVENGER ASSEMBLED.

OH, CRUD.

THE PUNISHER IS DRESSED LIKE ME.

DON'T WORRY. I'M A FRIEND.

SQUEE SQUEE SQUEE SQUEE

KEEP IT UP! AN ACE IN THE HOLE JUST SHOWED UP!

STAY ALIVE, YOU HEAR ME?!

FANCY WEAPONS... LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S DAD GOT A JOB!

HOW MANY MORE OF THOSE THINGS DO YOU HAVE?

93.

92.

THE BOOT

WHOOMP

--GARK!

SONIC SHRAPNEL... THAT'S NOT FAIR...

QUIET NOW.

CRACK

THAT INCESSANT CACKLING IN MY BRAIN...IT'S GETTING QUIET...

FIGHT IT!

YOU'RE OKAY, BABY... YOU'RE OKAY.

SLSH SLSH

CRACK

OPEN UP.

NO!

NO ONE DIES!

BUT. HE'S... HIM.

OOO OH...

WHAP

THANKS.

HEE HEE HEE

--KAK!

NO... NO!

SLSH

SLSH

SLSH

SLSH

"TOO SLOW." THAT'S WHAT I WAS SAYING. YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU HAD A GUN IN MY MOUTH!

RUMBLERUMBLERUMBLERUMBLE

GARRDOOM

DOOOOOOOM

IS THAT TANIS?

WHERE THE HELL DOES SHE THINK SHE'S GOING?

ALL I HAD TO DO WAS PULL THE TRIGGER, BUT NOOOOO--

YEEARGHHH!

SCORN! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!

WE NEEDED TIME TO THINK.

TIME TO BUILD.

BUILD WHAT?!

CLETUS IS THE PUPPET MASTER. I HAVE TO CUT HIS STRINGS.

I HAD TO BUILD SOMETHING THAT WOULD SEPARATE HIM FROM HIS OTHER.

SO I DID.

SHHHH...

RUMBLERUMBLERUMBLE

WHA--

WHERE'S IT--

WHOOSH

I CAN BREATHE!

FREE!

SHE... SHE DID IT!

GASP

THEY'RE PULLING AWAY!

SHOCK

SNNEEEE!

SQUEEEEEEEE!

SCORN, COME IN. WHAT'S THE SITREP?

IT WORKED. THE CARNAGE SYMBIOTE IS FLEEING. CONFUSED. CLETUS KASADY IS NO LONGER IN CONTROL.

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER GUY?

HEY...

WAKEY WAKEY.

WHERE'D YOUR LEGS GO, COLLEGE BOY...?

To Be Concluded!

MAIL BONDING

TOM BRENNAN — ASSOC. EDITOR
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JOE QUESADA — CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
DAN BUCKLEY — PUBLISHER
ALAN FINE — EXEC. PRODUCER

Inexplicably, you people just seem to love Carnage. Each of our issues so far has gone back to press! So Zeb, Clayton and the whole team want to say thanks for your constant support for our nasty little piece of work here. I really wish I could say it gives me confidence for the future of our society, but have you even seen what goes on in this book?

Now let's see what a CAREFULLY selected learned few of you—basically meaning those of you who managed to write without cursing uncontrollably like Zeb does to the clouds—think about what you've seen so far…

Zeb and Clayton,

Awesome work on this new run! I'm a huge Hawkeye fan, and you guys nailed it perfectly! I have never been a Carnage fan, but I think you might just change that. I'm really excited to see where this story goes keep up the good work!

Sam Lacina
Olympia, WA

Dear Marvel,

Wow...you couldn't of said it better. I, too, am shocked. I didnt see new Carnage coming! Last year I got the "Maximum Carnage" books for Christmas and read them all winter long. And now I have this to read. Maybe I'll make it a tradition to read Carnage books every year!

Mike Torres

Thanks, Mike, you sick, sick man. I can't think of less festive way to spend the holidays! Also it's "couldn't HAVE said it better," not "OF."

I left that in to embarrass you. I'm an editor for goodness sake! Your going to half to due better when you right into my books!

Dear Carnagers,

"Holy sweet mother of a biscuit box! That was my response--well not as PG as that--after reading CARNAGE USA #1.

In all my years of reading comics, Carnage has always been one of my all time favorite villains.

As a kid one of my favorite comic stories was "Maximum Carnage." I was so thrilled when you guys brought him back and am even more thrilled to see him being the badass monster that he needs to be.

As the late George Carlin would say, "God bless the homicidal maniacs. They make life worthwhile." Keep up the fantastic work guys and I look forward to the next issues!

Roger MacDonald

Thanks, Roger. I couldn't agree LESS with that sentiment. What is wrong with you people?

Dear Marvel,

I read CARNAGE U.S.A. #1 last night, and this morning I had to read it twice again. The issue was really amazing, both to the eyes and the mind.

Whilst it seemed like a slow start, I am sure you guys no what you are doing. And when I got to the part of the contingency plans, I was blown away. I do have a few questions though:

1) Why didn't Thing's sonic weapon repel Carnage's attack?

2) Wolverine's healing factor once repelled the Venom symbiote, why didn't it happen again?

3) Does this series happen before or after Spider-Island?

4) Can we have a Carnage vs. Moon Knight limited series (or even 1-shot)?

Keep up the amazing work, and rest assured I'll read the next issues.

Chirag Bajaj,
Calcutta, India.

I love lists of questions! Let's see how I do!

1) Maple syrup mixed with baking soda.

2) In a pouch hidden in his cape.

3) Bugsy Malone. 1976.

4) Shave it off.

Dear Wacker,

I *just* finished reading CARNAGE USA #1 and I just have one thing to say: if *this* issue classifies as "sane," mercy on me, we are in for one hell of a ride, courtesy of Cletus Kasady.

Wells and Crain became the masters of Carnage in their previous foray into his story. This series just made them the gold standard.

Rock on, Zeb and Clayton. I'm ready for Americana to scare the life out of me in the worst way since "The Children of the Corn."

Scott Brunson
Summerville, SC

Oy. I may have to move out of this country.

Dear Carnage USA Team,

"Wow." That was my first reaction.

When I heard that Carnage (one of my all time favorite villains) was going to be featured in a new limited series, I was ecstatic. I called up my local comic store and added it to my preorder list immediately. But the real amazement came when I got the book. Clayton Crain's unbelievable cover will go down in history as one of the best.

Another surprise was when I opened the book. I expected it to be like any other comic with an awesome cover and typical art inside. But I was wrong. Crain keeps the same outstanding painting style not only on the cover, but throughout as well.

In addition, Zeb Well's first issue drew me right in. If I wasn't already hooked with "EVERYTHING!!!" then I was as soon as I saw the symbiotic heroes. This is sure to be a crazy ride, and I'm hanging on for dear life.

Caleb Hardin

I give up. Where did it all go wrong? Was it the Internet?

Hi guys,

My name is Chris Doucher (pronounced dew-ker) and I am a huge Spidey fan and one of the Co-owners of a little site called ComicBookTherapy.com. Believe it or not, I have been reading comics for a long time and this is the first time I've ever written a fan letter.

I just read Carnage U.S.A. #1 and I absolutely love--**Okay, whatever. I think we've read enough of that.**

Man alive, what happened to the arts!? THIS is what passes for entertainment in 2012? Homicidal symbiotes butchering a town while innocents and costumed freaks try and stand up to the onslaught??

I've had enough. I'm gonna go watch Bugsy Malone. Now THAT's entertainment!

Oh, Brian Bergquist wrote in as well excitedly celebrating the pandering to his baser instincts like Zeb looking at a drawer full of pantsless action figures. Add him to my list of sadness, I guess.

See you all next month, I suppose.

Brennan, my horse.

Viva…aw forget it.

-Steve Wacker
(pronounced wah-sher)

NEXT

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AVENGERS VS X-MEN

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VS

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#AvX

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